



# Enterprising People

An Enterprise Program Newsletter –  
Supporting communications between Enterprisers  
and our partners

Issue 46  
September 2011

## SSE Leads FS Aviation Simulation Program

Contributed by Eric Shambora, SSE

Since July of 2010, the Safety Systems Enterprise (SSE) Team has had program management responsibilities for the USFS Aviation Simulation Program, located at the Wildland Fire Training and Conference Center, McClellan, CA. In that time, 378 people have flown an estimated 707 simulated flight hours.

The mission of the program is to improve employee safety and advance aviation education by providing safe, high-quality, cost effective training facilities and equipment that allow for multidisciplinary training through exposure to real-world scenarios. This includes all aspects of tactical execution, decision-making, and risk management as they pertain to the achievement of mission success in the aerial firefighting community.

The simulation room is split into 3 major sections: a classroom for student instruction; control room with role-player stations and an instructor station used to set up and control all phases of simulation training; and a training area comprised of 9 aircraft simulator cockpits, with the ability to simulate all types of aircraft currently used in aerial firefighting by the USFS.

Improvements in technology continue to make simulation an increasingly effective, efficient, and safe complement to live training. In January, SSE members coordinated installation of 2 new Single Engine Airtanker simulators at the McClellan facility, in partnership with the BLM. The annual live

training previously accomplished by BLM in one season was equivalent to the cost of purchase and installation of the 2 simulators. With the return on investment realized in the first year, not only will cost savings for future training be substantial, but the amount of exposure to risk for pilots will be greatly minimized.

For more information, contact Eric Shambora, Aviation Safety and Training Specialist with the Safety Systems Enterprise Team at 916-640-1055 or [eshambora@fs.fed.us](mailto:eshambora@fs.fed.us).



*Aviation Simulator Facility located at the McClellan Wildland Fire Training Center*

## Enterprise Program Update

From Bill Helin, Director, Enterprise Program

Wearing a Forest Service uniform? I know folks in the Enterprise Program are still asked by agency colleagues if they are Forest Service staff, though this is less common than a few years ago. It is, and will be, a continued challenge for a virtual staff, even though many of you work alongside agency colleagues in Forest Service offices. One way to help bolster the understanding we are Forest Service staff is a simple one, to wear the agency uniform. I know many of you do already. For those who do not, I'd strongly encourage you to do so. As you know, wearing a uniform remains particularly important at the District level but even at many SOs. Along with the uniform is the nameplate; we are now sanctioned to have one that displays us as Enterprise Program staff (but not by individual Enterprise Unit).



*Bill Helin, Director, Enterprise Program, encourages Enterprisers to wear their uniforms with newly sanctioned "Enterprise Program" nameplate.*

You may or may not have heard about a program-wide risk assessment that is just getting underway. The Deputy Chief for Business Operations signed a

memo on August 16, 2011 outlining the assessment's methodology; if you have not yet seen it, your Executive Officer has a copy. It came about, in part, due to the challenges in FY11 but also due to the budget outlook for FY12 and beyond. In my view, an important difference between this assessment, as compared to reviews and evaluations conducted in prior years, is that it has a primary intent to help strengthen and ensure the sustainability of the program. The assessment is being done out of the Deputy Chief's Office, is using an independent third party to gather and analyze the data, and will have close involvement of the Enterprise Program Leadership Council. It will take at least until the end of the calendar year to complete.

In closing my last column of FY11, let me say again what I have said many times, but bears repeating – you all are doing really important work on behalf of agency units across the country. It was a bit of a down year financially (though of course the final numbers are not yet in), yet the regional highlights – and the highlights in the current edition of our newsletter – are strong indicators of what the Enterprise Units continue to do – support all seven of the agency's strategic outcomes. It is really quite impressive. Be well, be safe, and all the best into the fall season.

## **Fire Behavior Assessment Team Supports Sequoia NF Lions Fire**

### **Contributed by AMSET**

In late July the Lions Fire was ignited by lightning on the Western Divide Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. Forest leadership quickly determined that this fire should be managed to accomplish multiple objectives within the fire adapted ecosystems of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The Lions Fire was located above the San Joaquin Valley in California, an area of significantly degraded air quality. A concern was raised by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District that this fire would have significant impact on air

quality within the District and could potentially have a negative

impact on human health. Given this concern, the forest ordered AMSET's Fire Behavior Assessment Team (FBAT) to evaluate fuel consumption and smoke production from the fire.

Utilizing fire-proof video cameras and sensors to measure rate of spread, fire type, fuel loading and fuel consumption, the FBAT group established a series of 10 fuel plots adjacent to the actively spreading fire. Smoke emissions were determined by using the amount of fuel consumed by the fire on these plots. This information was provided to the Air District and forest staff to assist in the "Go-No Go" decision-making process on the fire.

In addition to their work on smoke and air quality issues, the FBAT compared the effectiveness of past-managed fires adjacent to the Lions incident; they evaluated how fire behavior and fire effects changed between recently burned areas and areas yet unburned by the Lions Fire. This information assists land managers in evaluating the effectiveness of the fire management program in meeting land and resource management goals.

AMSET is currently working with Region 5's Air Quality Specialists to develop a peer-reviewed publication relating fuels consumption and air quality impacts from the Lions Fire. The draft Lions Fire reports is available at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/adaptivemanagement/projects/FBAT/FBAT.shtml>



## **ETS – Smart Money in Partnerships**

New mom and Enterprise Technical Services (ETS) Environmental Engineer, Karen Bower, is keeping busy on the Tongass National Forest these days – and she doesn't live in Alaska.

ETS and the Tongass have developed a unique partnership, involving Karen from her home in Oregon, and field staff on the forest. The project, completing Phase 1 site assessments, involves forest staff providing on-the-ground work resulting in data for Karen to incorporate in the assessment reports. It's a win-win! The Tongass invests limited travel costs, and Karen continues working from her home with baby Carter close by.



*ETS is providing clients with creative solutions in an effort to manage business during travel reductions. Pictured above, Karen Bower, ETS Environmental Engineer, and her new son Carter are making the most of their time together at their home in Oregon.*

Learn how your unit can benefit from ETS services by contacting Lisa Whitcomb at [lwhitcomb@fs.fed.us](mailto:lwhitcomb@fs.fed.us).



*Lions Fire consumption and smoldering at study site 9 on July 21, 2011. Note the silhouette of the anemometer and heat flux sensor on the left side, foreground.*

## **Get Your Training On! ...with ODE**

Do you need to learn a little more about Outlook Calendars, but don't have time for AgLearn? Are you looking for a way to coax your colleagues into joining you in the world of calendaring?



Organization Development

Enterprise (ODE) has created 3 minute videos to show you how to make the most of these new tools. ODE wants to help you [Get Your Training On!](#) Feel free to forward the link.

## **John Day River Restoration a Group Effort**

**Contributed by Brian Bair, Fisheries Biologist, TEAMS Enterprise Unit**

The Forest Service is pleased to report another success in collaborative stream restoration on the John Day River, where mine tailings left over from early mining operations have been removed, returning the river to its natural state. Key partners included the Malheur National Forest, Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs, USDI Bureau of Reclamation, EcoTrust, Bonneville Power Administration, Forest Service TEAMS Enterprise Unit, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The river, located in Oregon, is the second-longest free-flowing stream in the continental U.S., and one of only two river systems in the entire Columbia River Basin managed exclusively for wild anadromous fish. The first of three phases of the project was completed this year rehabilitating more than a mile of stream. This type of restoration is important to improving rearing and spawning habitats. This project is one of many efforts to restore the John Day River. Read more about this project at, [http://news.opb.org/article/project\\_adds\\_woody\\_structures\\_to\\_river/](http://news.opb.org/article/project_adds_woody_structures_to_river/).

## **Cultural Transformation 255 MicroBlog**

New to the [Cultural Transformation collaborative site](#), the [255 MicroBlog](#) is already providing a place for employees to share opinions and generate some interesting perspectives about Cultural Transformation. Interested? It's easy to participate. Simply share your thoughts in 255 characters or less at <http://fsteams.fs.fed.us/sites/chief-cultural-trans/Lists/My%20Two%20Cents/Long.aspx>.



## **Safety Engagement Sessions**

All employees are invited to attend one of the Safety Engagement Sessions. It is a great opportunity for Enterprise to mix with a variety of employees including leadership. Here is a link to the Safety Engagement corporate registration site: <http://fswork.fs.fed.us/apps/wo-esess/default.aspx>

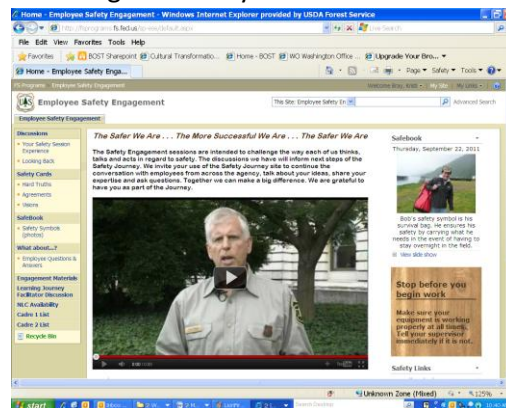
Follow the directions on the registration site carefully - you won't be able to go back to make changes after you click submit. Notice that the sessions are designed for a full 8 hours. Some hosts are offering in one day while others are scheduling as 2 half-days.

You will be asked to pick 3 different sessions that you would be able to attend and then, out of the 3 options you chose, one will be assigned to you.

You will be notified which session you have been selected to attend. Be sure to order the sessions as 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice and click "submit" after selecting each preference.

The term "mandatory training" does not fit the design of these engagement sessions. Rather, the goal is to have all employees participate in a safety learning journey. Attendance will be recorded by the host unit, and uploaded into the corporate site for accomplishment tracking.

Please feel free to contact Tamara Holcomb, [tholcomb@fs.fed.us](mailto:tholcomb@fs.fed.us), in the Enterprise Program Office with your questions or concerns.



*For more information about the Safety Engagement Sessions, visit <http://fsprograms.fs.fed.us/sp-ese/default.aspx>.*

## **From the Editor**

Enterprising People is a quarterly publication focusing on Enterprise teams and their partners. Both Enterprisers and partners are encouraged to share topics and ideas or join our electronic mailing list by contacting editor Kristi Bray at [kabray@fs.fed.us](mailto:kabray@fs.fed.us). **If you're interested in contributing to the next issue, please send your submissions by November 16, 2011.**

Produced by

